

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0513

March 30, 2023

The Honorable Kay Granger
Chairwoman
House Appropriations Committee
H-307, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the City of Huron's Las Casitas de Lola Domestic Violence Shelter in fiscal year 2024.

Huron, population 6,201 in 2020, is a severely disadvantaged community located in rural Fresno County. The City has a median household income of \$34,714 – well below the state poverty line and less than 42% of the statewide Median Household income. US Census Data indicate that 40.3% of the City population lives in poverty. The City has one of the highest percentage of Latino populations in the nation, with 95.6% of the population identifying as Hispanic or Latino on the 2020 census, and the population swells with agricultural seasonal migration.

The Las Casitas de Lola Domestic Violence Shelter provides critical resources to the most disadvantaged community members in the City. The Shelter's current HVAC systems are in a state of disrepair and they are not able to provide heat to those it houses. This is a vital community resource – the Fresno County region ranks first in the state for domestic violence calls for service, and the Huron Police Department frequently responds to domestic violence incidents. This is a public facility that needs critical rehabilitation in order to continue to serve this community.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes under federal guidance 5303(a)(2) to provide the rehabilitation and improvements of a blighted and deteriorated facility. The Shelter has critical infrastructure needs to continue to serve the community and is requesting funding to acquire 8 new HVAC systems and physical infrastructure repairs (paint, sealant) for the building to continue to serve as a critical resource in a very rural, disadvantaged area. I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,



John Duarte
Member of Congress